

**Press Release  
October 25, 2012**



**Embassy of the United States of America  
100 Duke & Young Streets, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana**

**U.S. Embassy Makes Donation to the Disabled Persons Network – Region 5**

GEORGETOWN – U.S. Ambassador D. Brent Hardt donated three new sewing machines, a collection of Braille books, and speech recognition software during an October 24 visit to the Disabled Persons Network (DPN) in Seafield Village, West Coast Berbice, to meet with DPN members. Chairman Mark Archibald and members of the Region 5 DPN warmly welcomed the Ambassador and discussed the organization's mission of providing support to persons with disabilities. The sewing machines will support the Disabled Persons Network's bed sheet production project, which serves as both an income-generating activity for the organization, while also giving members marketable skills and entrepreneurial experience. The Braille books will support reading and writing for the members who may be blind or visually impaired.

Ambassador Hardt highlighted the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, emphasizing that disability rights are basic human rights, not special rights. Persons with disabilities have the same rights to non-discrimination, access, equality of opportunity, inclusion, and full participation in society as other people. The Ambassador noted that the United States works with other countries in a shared effort to remove barriers and create a world in which disabled people enjoy dignity and full inclusion.

Ambassador Hardt observed that discrimination against people with disabilities is not only unfair; it hinders economic development, restricts democracy, and erodes the sense of justice at the root of a society. He underscored the commitment that exists between the Government of Guyana and civil society to expand policies, programs, and support to address the needs of persons with disabilities. Lastly, Ambassador Hardt commended the leadership of the Disabled Persons Network for this initiative. He said that the Embassy is very pleased to support a civil society organization that is fighting for the rights of a critical group of often underserved citizens. He encouraged them to continue in their mission to inspire other persons with disabilities in Guyana to live full and successful lives.

The Chairman of the Regional Democratic Council in Region 5, Bindrabhan Bisnauth, highlighted the strong advocacy by Disabled Persons Network for the rights of persons

with disabilities, both locally and nationally. He noted that the Council will be making provision in the 2013 national budget to support the rights of persons with disabilities.

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